

Message Text

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ORIGIN OES-09

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 INR-10
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TO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 221031

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: XV, EFIS, TGEN

SUBJECT: ANTARCTIC MARINE LIVING RESOURCES--CONSULTATIONS
IN WASHINGTON

REFS: A. PARIS 25115; B. STATE 200311

1. FRENCH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON AUGUST 28 DELIVERED AIDE
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MEMOIRE TO DEPT CONVEYING SERIOUS GOF RESERVATIONS ABOUT
INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS ON ANTARCTIC MARINE LIVING RESOURCES
PROPOSED TO TAKE PLACE IN WASHINGTON BEGINNING SEPTEMBER
18. GOF MADE FOLLOWING POINTS IN AIDE MEMOIRE:

--EXPRESSED DOUBTS THAT MEETING ARRANGED ON SUCH SHORT
NOTICE HAD ANY BETTER CHANCES OF SUCCESS THAN PRECEDING

SPECIAL CONSULTATIVE MEETINGS;

-- BLAMED LACK OF PROGRESS AT BUENOS AIRES SPECIAL CONSULTATIVE MEETING ON INFLEXIBLE POSITION TAKEN ON ISSUES OF SOVEREIGNTY AND MARITIME JURISDICTION IN ANTARCTIC BY "CERTAIN STATES" (READ USSR AND POLAND) AND ASSERTED THAT AGREEMENT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE AS LONG AS THESE STATES MAINTAINED SUCH POSITION;

-- SUGGESTED, AS ALTERNATIVE TO WASHINGTON CONSULTATIONS,

HOLDING OF A THIRD SPECIAL CONSULTATIVE MEETING, PERHAPS IN WASHINGTON, EARLY IN JANUARY 1979;

-- ARGUED THAT HOLDING SPECIAL CONSULTATIVE MEETING IN EARLY 1979 WOULD ALLOW PREPARATIONS NECESSARY TO ENSURE SUCCESS, PREPARATIONS WHICH SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN THROUGH "INTENSIVE BILATERAL CONTACTS."

2. FRENCH EMBASSY COUNSELOR (OUVRIEU) DELIVERED AIDE MEMOIRE AND SOUGHT U.S. REACTION. DEPT MADE FOLLOWING POINTS IN REPLY:

-- U.S. IS SOMEWHAT SURPRISED AT POINTS MADE IN AIDE MEMOIRE IN LIGHT OF UNANIMOUS AGREEMENT, EXPRESSED IN REPORT OF BUENOS AIRES MEETING, THAT REGIME TO CONSERVE CONFIDENTIAL

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ANTARCTIC MARINE LIVING RESOURCES BE CONCLUDED BEFORE THE END OF 1978;

-- U.S. HAD FURTHER UNDERSTOOD THAT IDEA OF INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS IN WASHINGTON JUST AFTER CONCLUSION OF CURRENT SESSION OF LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE HAD RECEIVED GENERAL ENDORSEMENT AS BEST MEANS OF PROCEEDING IN WAKE OF BUENOS AIRES MEETING;

-- CONSULTATIONS PROPOSED BY U.S. WOULD NOT CONSTITUTE FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS BUT OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLORE, ON INFORMAL BASIS, WAYS OF RESOLVING OUTSTANDING ISSUES;

-- IT IS U.S. VIEW THAT THIS KIND OF INFORMAL CONSULTATION OFFERS BEST ATMOSPHERE FOR ELICITING MOVEMENT NECESSARY TO ACHIEVE ACCEPTABLE COMPROMISES FROM STATES TAKING INFLEXIBLE POSITIONS ON BOTH SIDES OF SOVEREIGNTY AND MARITIME JURISDICTION ISSUES;

-- US IS NOT IN POSITION TO HOST SPECIAL CONSULTATIVE MEETING IN JANUARY AND HOLDING MEETING AT THAT TIME, AS PROPOSED BY GOF, WOULD HAVE PRACTICAL EFFECT OF

DEFERRING UNTIL AFTER THE TENTH CONSULTATIVE MEETING
(TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR FALL, 1979) POSSIBILITY OF
CONCLUDING LIVING RESOURCE CONVENTION;

-- PURPOSE TO BE SERVED BY GOF IDEA OF "INTENSIVE
BILATERAL CONTACTS" IS BETTER SERVED BY INFORMAL CON-
SULTATIONS PROPOSED BY US SINCE COORDINATING BILATERAL
CONTACTS AMONG THIRTEEN GOVERNMENTS IS EXTREMELY DIFFI-
CULT AND INSUFFICIENT WAY TO DO BUSINESS;

-- US REQUESTS GOF NOT TO LET ITS RESERVATIONS ABOUT
WASHINGTON CONSULTATIONS STAND IN WAY OF ITS PARTICIPATION

IN THEM.
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3. OUVRIEU UNDERTOOK TO CABLE POINTS MADE BY U.S. TO
PARIS IMMEDIATELY.

4. AT THIS STAGE, WE DO NOT CONSIDER FOLLOW-UP DEMARCHE
BY EMBASSY TO BE NECESSARY. HOWEVER, SHOULD GOF OFFI-
CIALS MAKE PITCH TO EMBASSY MADE IN AIDE MEMOIRE, YOU
SHOULD DRAW ON POINTS CONTAINED PARA 2 ABOVE IN REPLY. CHRISTOPHER

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